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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of fabricating a waistband comprising the steps of; applying heat and pressure to a layer of woven fabric strands along [[the]] a length of the layer to force [[the]] fabric strands substantially across [[the]] a width of the [[fabric]] layer closer together to impart a semi-permanent stretch into the [[fabric]] layer, simultaneously compressing a layer of synthetic thermoplastic interlining along the layer of the interlining to introduce a compressive shrinkage in the interlining, interposing a dry bonding film between the layer of fabric strands and the layer of interlining to bond and impart stretch to the layers, and bonding the layer of synthetic thermoplastic interlining [[to]] , the bonding film, and the [[fabric]] layer of fabric strands together while [[both]] the layers and the film are in the compressed state.

2. - 3. (Cancelled).

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim [[4]] 1 in which the bonding coating or film is a polyurethane material.

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the synthetic interlining material used is a fine woven polyamide or polyester fabric.

8. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein a standard rigid fusible non-woven or other relatively tight knitted material is processed in narrow width form with ~~a stretch waistband fabric~~ the layers to produce a laminate which has stretch characteristics in the length direction.

9. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim [[9]] 8, wherein the stretch fabric laminate is tensioned during processing with the synthetic thermoplastic

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interlining so that [[it]] the laminate is compressively 'shrunk' back to its original dimensions.

10. (Currently Amended) A waistband comprising; a fabric layer of woven fabric strands that is a non-synthetic textile material which cannot normally be permanently set by heat alone in a compressed state along and across [[the]] a width of the fabric layer to force the fabric strands closer together to impart a generally semi-permanent stretch into the fabric layer, a layer of synthetic interlining of a thermoplastic that can be heat set and in a compressed state along the layer of the interlining to introduce a compressive shrinkage in the interlining, a dry bonding film interposed between said fabric layer and said layer of interlining to bond and impart stretch to said layers, said layer of synthetic thermoplastic interlining being bonded to said fabric layer through said dry bonding film to maintain both layers in the compressed state.

11. - 12. (Canceled).

13. (Currently Amended) A fabric set as set forth in claim 10 wherein the synthetic interlining material comprises a fine woven fabric.

14. (Currently Amended) A fabric as set forth in claim 10 wherein said synthetic interlining material comprises one of a polyamide and a polyester.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a woven fabric strip to produce a stretchable fabric combination which comprises the steps of:

(a) passing the strip lengthwise through a fabric treatment apparatus, the fabric treatment apparatus applying pressure to the fabric strip along [[its]] a length of the fabric strip and also heat in such a manner that [[the]] yarn strands substantially across [[the]] a width of the fabric strip are forced closer together thus imparting generally semi permanent stretch into the fabric strip; and

(b) simultaneously passing a synthetic interlining fabric through said apparatus thereby applying a compressive shrinkage thereto;

(c) interposing a dry bonding film between the fabric strip and the synthetic

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interlining fabric, and

[(c)] (d) at least partially bonding the woven fabric strip, [(to)] the bonding film,  
and the synthetic interlining fabric together.

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